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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Vol. 27 No. 10 A Monthly Newsletter Published in Cooperation With the Bureau of Labor Statistics October, 1990

Trend Setters		
Wyoming	July '90	Aug '90
Labor Force	247,835	245,085
Employment	238,926	235,241
Unemployment	8,909	9,844
Rate (Raw)	3.6	4.0
Rate (S.A.)	4.1	4.7
Mining Hourly Wage	14.86	14.53
Avg. Weekly Hours Mining	46.0	46.0
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.5	5.6
Mining Hourly Wage	13.65	13.59
Avg. Weekly Hours Mining	43.6	44.0

Consumer Price Index (U)
(All Urban 1982 to 1984 = 100)

	July	August
U.S. City Average	130.4	131.6
Year Ago Change	4.0	5.6
Month Ago Change	0.4	0.9

Trends News
by Gordon Wolford

AUGUST U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT AT TWO YEAR HIGH

In the nation both the number of unemployed, at 7.0 million, and the rate, at 5.6 percent, edged up in August after seasonal adjustment. Prior to July, which registered 5.5 percent unemployment, the jobless rate had fluctuated around the 5.3 percent mark for nearly two years. The August rate was the highest unemployment since the same month in 1988. The July to August movement in the jobless rates for most individual worker groups were small, but generally upward. August rates were 5.0 percent for adult men, 4.9 percent for adult women, and 16.7 percent for teenagers. The number of newly jobless persons, those jobless for less than 5 weeks, rose by 200,000 to 3.3 million.

The non-agricultural national establishment survey indicated the economy grew by 2.0 million jobs worked (1.8 percent) from last year. Manufacturing continued to lose the most jobs (351,000). Services and retail trade more than offset this deficit with a combined annual gain of 1.4 million new workers as compared to a year ago. Government employment followed with an annual gain of 512,000.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES BELOW THE NATION

Statewide unemployment, at 4.7 percent seasonally adjusted, was up from 4.1 percent in July but remained below the national level for the third month in a row. The unadjusted Wyoming rate, 4.0 percent, was the lowest for the month of August since 1981. This compares to 3.6 percent last month and 6.1 percent last year. The monthly unemployment gain, from 8,909 to 9,844, was not generally due to layoffs or slowing of the economy. Instead, it appears that more people were looking for jobs than before: either entering or returning to the job market.

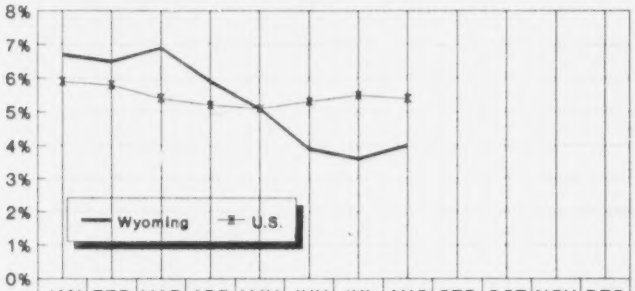
NORTHWEST WYOMING ECONOMY SPURRED BY LATE SUMMER TOURISM

As in earlier summer months, Yellowstone Park counties of Park and Teton posted over-the-year labor force growth in excess of 1,200 individuals. They recorded low unemployment rates of 2.9 and 0.6 percent, respectively. This corner of the state accounted for a good part of the statewide annual gain of 1,500 workers in retail trade and services.

JACKSON HOLE SETS YET ANOTHER UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD

Teton County, the Jackson Hole area, shattered its former record unemployment lows (1.2 percent in June and 0.7 percent in July) with 0.6 percent in August. The August rate was

Unemployment Rate Wyoming & U. S. January - August 1990



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Wyoming	6.7%	6.5%	6.9%	5.9%	5.1%	3.9%	3.6%	4%				
U.S.	5.9%	5.8%	5.4%	5.2%	5.1%	5.3%	5.5%	5.4%				

Civilian Unadjusted

an all-time record low Wyoming county unemployment rate. Also, Teton County posted both the highest annual labor force growth in absolute numbers, up 886, and percent, up 6.0 percent.

ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW IN MOST PARTS OF STATE

The late summer (August) economy in Wyoming continued the 1990 pattern of annual employment gains and lower unemployment rates. Statewide employment (labor force less unemployment) declined in a normal seasonal pattern from July to August and was up 3.0 percent from a year ago. The July to August decline of 1.5 percent in employment appears to be attributable to the ending of temporary summer jobs.

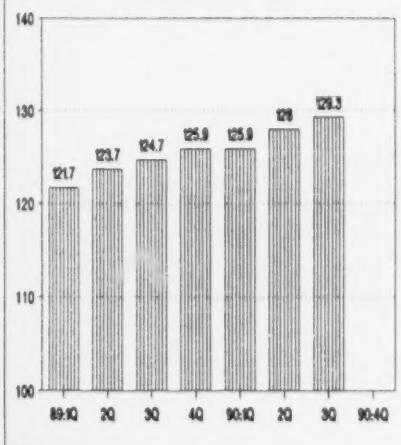
Big Horn County had the highest unemployment rate in August :7.1 percent. Both Laramie and Natrona counties, the Cheyenne and Casper areas, continued with unemployment declines over the year with rates of 4.2 and 4.9 percent. In addition, employment was up by 1,170 in Laramie and 584 workers in Natrona counties: 3.4 and 2.0 percent annual gains, respectively. Fourteen of the state's twenty-three counties indicated labor force growth from a year ago.

Consumer Price Index
All Urban July

	Aug. 1990	Month Change
All Items	131.6	0.9
Food & Bev.	132.7	0.2
Housing	130.2	0.8
Apparel-Upkeep	122.2	1.2
Transportation	120.6	1.9
Medical Care	165.0	0.9
Entertainment	133.0	0.2
Other Gds.-Serv.	160.4	0.8

Source: B. L. S.
1982 to 1984 = 100

National CPI; Quarterly
89:1Q through 90:3Q



1983 was 100

NEW JOB GROWTH CONTINUES IN RETAIL TRADE AND SERVICES

Statewide, Research and Planning's survey of employers indicated that nonagricultural employment growth in retail trade and services establishments continued to account for the lion's share of new jobs, up 1,500 compared to last year. Mining was up by 200 jobs from August of 1988 (one percent gain).

A decrease in state and local government jobs (1,900 over the year) accounted for the slight decline in total statewide nonagricultural employment. Private sector employment was up 1,700 workers (1.1 percent) from last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS ACROSS REGION

By Tom Gallagher

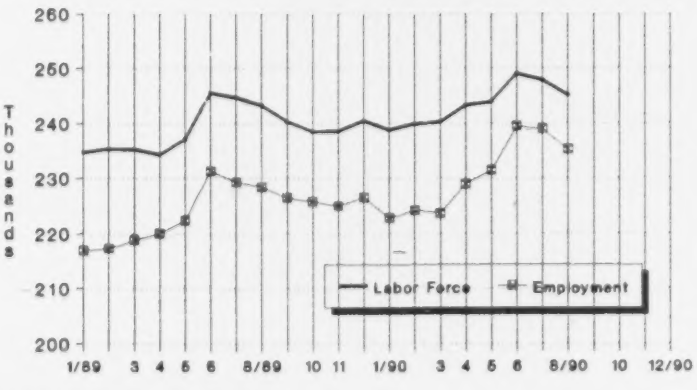
Wyoming is one among a group of Northern Plains and Rocky Mountain states whose unemployment rates usually drop from mid-winter to mid-summer (tables, facing page). Seasonal employment swings in major industries such as tourism, agriculture, and construction are responsible for much of this normal cycle in the region's labor market.

Comparing two points in time (i.e., January and July) is insufficient to identify labor market trends. However, examining regional data allows us to illustrate the point that Wyoming's economy and labor market share common ground with neighboring states.

Wyoming had the fastest employment growth (7.3%) of all states in the region. But at the same time, growth rates in both Dakota's, above six percent, were close behind. Four of seven states show employment growth above 5.7 percent.

Wyoming had the fastest rate of decrease among the unemployed (-44.4 %) from January to July. Although Wyoming still has a way to go in matching Nebraska's 2.2 percent

Wyoming Civilian Labor Force
and Employment
8/89 through 8/90



Note: Scale does not begin at zero

Mid-winter to Mid-summer Employment & Unemployment Among Northern Plains and Rocky Mountain States for 1990

	January				July Preliminary			
	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemp.	Rate
Wyoming	238,782	222,766	16,016	6.7	247,847	238,938	8,909	3.6
Montana	403,405	378,598	24,807	6.1	408,859	388,172	20,687	5.1
North Dakota	318,085	302,371	15,714	4.9	334,603	321,453	13,150	3.9
Nebraska	823,693	798,248	25,445	3.1	863,173	843,882	19,291	2.2
Kansas	1,277,037	1,220,698	56,339	4.4	1,340,820	1,290,481	50,339	3.8
Colorado	1,706,500	1,614,266	92,234	5.4	1,756,853	1,672,191	84,622	4.8
South Dakota	349,479	334,362	15,117	4.3	369,091	354,553	14,538	3.9
				Avg				Avg
Total	5,116,981	4,871,309	245,672	4.8	5,321,246	5,109,670	211,536	4.0

unemployment rate, Wyoming is not alone in seasonal labor market fluctuations. Four other states in the region showed double digit decreases in the number of unemployed over the same period. Unemployment rates currently available (July preliminary) show five of seven states in the region with less than 4% unemployment, with rates ranging between 3.6 and 3.9 percent.

Editor's Note--In March of this year, Tom Gallagher became the new Manager of R&P. Tom came to Wyoming Department of Employment with eleven years of labor market analysis experience from North Dakota Job Service.

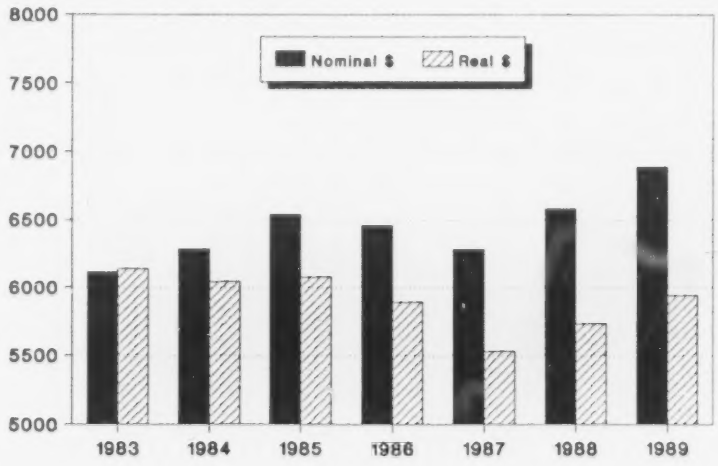
Next Month in Trends

- An analysis of how nominal wages compare with real wages deflated via the C.P.I. (Preview chart at right).
- First Quarter 1990 Full and Part-time U.I. Covered and Federal Jobs Worked, Total Payrolls ,and Average Weekly Wage in Wyoming By County.

January to July Percentage Changes

	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemp.	Unemp. Rate
Wyoming	3.8	7.3	-44.4	-3.1
Montana	1.4	2.5	-16.6	-1.1
North Dakota	5.2	6.3	-16.3	-1.0
Nebraska	4.8	5.7	-24.2	-0.9
Kansas	5.0	5.7	-10.7	-0.7
Colorado	3.0	3.6	-8.3	-0.6
South Dakota	5.6	6.0	-3.8	-0.4

Wyoming Nominal and Real Personal Income



WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Table 1

INDUSTRY	AUGUST 1990 [1]	JULY 1990 [2]	AUGUST 1989 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	245,085	247,835	243,274	-1.1	0.7
Unemployment	9,844	8,909	14,880	10.5	-33.8
Employed Labor Force	235,241	238,926	228,394	-1.5	3.0
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seasonally Adjusted*	4.0% 4.7%*	3.6% 4.1%*	6.1% 7.1%*	N/A	N/A
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adjusted*	5.4% 5.6%*	5.5% 5.5%*	5.1% 5.3%*	N/A	N/A
HOURS & EARNINGS [4]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 668.38	$ 683.56	$ 639.13	-2.2	4.6
Average Weekly Hours	46.0	46.0	44.2	0.0	4.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.53	$ 14.86	$ 14.46	-2.2	0.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	9,119	10,865	11,369	-16.1	-19.8
a. Initial	1,671	1,588	1,668	5.2	0.2
Weeks Compensated	7,099	6,168	8,912	15.1	-20.3
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,076,762	$ 940,804	$ 1,370,740	14.5	-21.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 151.33	$ 152.03	$ 153.42	-0.5	-1.4
Unemployment Insurance State Covered Jobs [3]	184,815	182,737	182,658	1.1	1.2
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)	1.0%	1.1%	1.3%	N/A	N/A
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES					
Total Applications Received During Month	6,158	7,245	5,824	-15.0	5.7
Total Openings Received	4,321	3,743	4,030	15.4	7.2
Individual Placements	2,208	2,503	2,257	-11.8	-2.2
Placement Transactions	3,021	2,785	2,634	8.5	14.7
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS [4]					
Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 597.96	$ 595.14	$ 575.07	0.5	4.0
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	43.6	43.5	0.9	1.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.59	$ 13.65	$ 13.22	-0.4	2.8
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84=100	131.6	130.4	124.6	0.9	5.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84=100	116.5	114.3	112.0	1.9	4.0
Food and Beverage 1982-84=100	132.7	132.4	125.6	0.2	5.7

1 Preliminary. 2 Revised. 3 Not benchmarked to current population survey. 4 Estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 5 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates. N/A Not Appropriate

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE 2 *(Prepared in cooperation with U S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
COUNTY	AUG 1990	JUL 1990	AUG 1989	CHANGE JUL-AUG	% CHANGE AUG-AUG	AUG 1990	JUL 1990	AUG 1989	AUG 1990	JUL 1990	AUG 1989
Statewide	245,085	247,835	243,274	-1.1	0.7	9,844	8,909	14,880	4.0	3.6	6.1
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									4.7	4.1	7.1
Albany	16,221	15,997	15,435	1.4	5.1	375	367	500	2.3	2.3	3.2
Big Horn	5,216	5,147	4,973	1.3	4.9	370	207	303	7.1	4.0	6.1
Campbell	15,633	15,913	15,590	-1.8	0.3	895	758	1,228	5.7	4.8	7.9
Carbon	8,075	8,039	8,014	0.4	0.8	366	330	531	4.5	4.1	6.6
Converse	4,699	4,701	5,298	0.0	-11.3	171	204	425	3.6	4.3	8.0
Crook	2,818	2,843	3,119	-0.9	-9.7	80	73	240	2.8	2.6	7.7
Fremont	16,694	16,532	16,584	1.0	0.7	909	761	1,358	5.4	4.6	8.2
Goshen	5,874	6,003	5,822	-2.1	0.9	188	147	255	3.2	2.4	4.4
Hot Springs	2,894	2,990	2,822	-3.2	2.6	70	94	125	2.4	3.1	4.4
Johnson	3,993	3,971	3,868	0.6	3.2	162	93	202	4.1	2.3	5.2
Laramie	37,117	38,162	36,408	-2.7	1.9	1,573	1,351	2,034	4.2	3.5	5.6
Lincoln	5,739	5,495	5,958	4.4	-3.7	283	240	411	4.9	4.4	6.9
Natrona	30,984	30,266	31,150	2.4	-0.5	1,526	1,261	2,276	4.9	4.2	7.3
Niobrara	1,502	1,523	1,480	-1.4	1.5	24	22	34	1.6	1.4	2.3
Park	15,808	16,291	15,469	-3.0	2.2	460	469	846	2.9	2.9	5.5
Platte	4,068	4,155	4,317	-2.1	-5.8	141	167	274	3.5	4.0	6.3
Sheridan	12,883	13,423	12,637	-4.0	1.9	429	478	673	3.3	3.6	5.3
Sublette	3,106	3,199	2,954	-2.9	5.1	73	90	113	2.4	2.8	3.8
Sweetwater	18,411	19,043	18,686	-3.3	-1.5	896	968	1,534	4.9	5.1	8.2
Teton	15,729	16,149	14,843	-2.6	6.0	96	113	233	0.6	0.7	1.6
Uinta	9,962	10,236	10,016	-2.7	-0.5	443	433	793	4.4	4.2	7.9
Washakie	4,441	4,593	4,502	-3.3	-1.4	160	169	286	3.6	3.7	6.4
Weston	3,217	3,166	3,328	1.6	-3.3	153	116	204	4.8	3.7	6.1
United States									5.4	5.5	5.1
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.6	5.5	5.3

The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the 1988 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING

Table 3 (Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS AUG 1990 Total	JUL 1990 Total	AUG 1989 Total	% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP. JUL 1990 to AUG 1990	AUG 1989 to AUG 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	199.7	199.9	199.9	-0.1 %	-0.1 %
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	38.8	38.6	38.6	0.5	0.5
Mining	17.9	18.0	17.7	-0.6	1.1
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	2.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.3	8.3	8.2	0.0	1.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	11.9	11.6	11.9	2.6	0.0
General Building Contractors	2.0	1.9	2.0	5.3	0.0
Heavy Construction	5.0	4.9	5.0	2.0	0.0
Special Trade Construction	4.9	4.8	4.9	2.1	0.0
Manufacturing	9.0	9.0	9.0	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	160.9	161.3	161.3	-0.3	-0.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.8	14.8	14.8	0.0	0.0
Transportation	9.1	9.0	9.1	1.1	0.0
Railroad Transportation	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	-3.6
Trucking & Warehousing	4.7	4.6	4.7	2.2	0.0
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
Trade	48.6	48.6	47.4	0.0	2.5
Wholesale Trade	7.4	7.4	7.3	0.0	1.4
Durable Goods	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.6
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	41.2	41.2	40.1	0.0	2.7
Building Materials & Garden Supplies	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	5.6	5.6	4.8	0.0	16.7
Food Stores	5.9	5.9	5.8	0.0	1.7
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	15.2	15.1	15.1	0.7	0.7
Miscellaneous Retail	4.1	4.2	4.1	-2.4	0.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 3 (Cont.) **NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING** [1]

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS AUG 1990 [2] Total	JUL 1990 [3] Total	AUG 1989 Total	% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP. JUL 1990 to AUG 1990	AUG 1989 to AUG 1990
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7.4	7.4	7.5	0.0 %	-1.3 %
Finance	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-2.4
Insurance	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Other *	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services	41.9	42.0	41.5	-0.2	1.0
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	11.2	11.4	11.0	-1.8	1.8
Personal Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Business Services	3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0
Automotive & Miscellaneous Repair Services	2.6	2.6	2.8	0.0	-7.1
Amusements & Recreational Services including Motion Pictures	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	3.6
Health Services	7.8	7.8	7.7	0.0	1.3
Legal Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Social Services	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.3
Other *	8.3	8.3	8.2	0.0	1.2
Government	48.2	48.5	50.1	-0.6	-3.8
Total Federal Government	7.8	7.9	7.8	-1.3	0.0
Total State Government	12.7	13.0	13.7	-2.3	-7.3
Total Local Government	27.7	27.6	28.6	0.4	-3.2
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.5	28.1	28.0	1.4 %	1.8 %
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.9	5.8	5.8	1.7	1.7
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Mining	2.5	2.4	2.4	4.2	4.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.3	2.2	2.2	4.6	4.6
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	22.6	22.3	22.2	1.4	1.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Trade	8.1	7.9	8.0	2.5	1.3
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.1	2.2	4.8	0.0
Retail Trade	5.9	5.8	5.8	1.7	1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.0	0.0
Personal & Business Services	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Health Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Government	4.8	4.7	4.6	2.1	4.4

1 Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2 Subject to revision. 3 Revised figures.
** This data is not certified by BLS for publication.*

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WYOMING
LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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